

Einion ap Griffith (c. 1360–aft. 1400)

Origin and Family

Born c. 1360. Died after 1397.

Father: [Griffith ap Llewelyn](#) (c. 1325–c. 1399)

Mother: Efa ferch Madoc ap Ellis (c. 1330–)

Spouse: Tangwystl verch Rhydderch (died after 1400)

Children:¹

- Iowerth ap Einion of Ynys-y-Maengwyn
- Ievan ap Einion. Progenitor of the Wynnes of Peniarth.
- [Griffith ap Einion](#) (c. 1382–c. 1450)
- Mali. Her husband Howell Sele was killed by Owain Glyndŵr .
- Tibod

From Rodney Horace Yale¹: “He succeeded to Cors-y-Gedol and was Captain of Forty Archers for the King, from County Merioneth, 10 Richard II (1387). Living at Michaelmas , 20 Richard II (1397). Einion married Tangwystl, daughter of Rhydderch ap Ievan Lloyd of Gogerddan, Co. Cardigan, and had issue, three sons and two daughters.”

Archaeologia Cambrensis records that, like his father Griffith ap Llewelyn, he served as Woodwarden of the Commote of Estimaner at some point between 7 July 1382 and 12 October 1385.¹¹ This suggests that father and son held the office in succession. As he needed to be over 18 years old to hold that position, he was born before 1367, and likely several years earlier.

Occupation and Property

“Einion ap Griffith appears in a list of the Indicators (probably a grand jury) for the county of Merioneth, for a period commencing 7 July, 1382, and extending certainly not beyond 21 June, 1386; we also find among the Exchequer Issues in 1387 a payment recorded to Einion ap Griffith and others, captains of certain archers from the County of Merioneth.”²

There is an Einion ap Grifffudd that is shown as High Sheriff of Caernarvonshire during the period 1351-1354 and again in 1358,³ although other references show him as sheriff from 1351 - 1359.⁴ However, this is not Einion ap Griffith of Cors-y-Gedol as he would have been too young, but it could be a relative one or two generations back.

Einion’s military service as a Captain of Archers established a martial tradition in the family that would culminate two generations later when his grandsons became the gallant defenders of Harlech Castle during the Wars of the Roses (1455-1487).^{8,9}

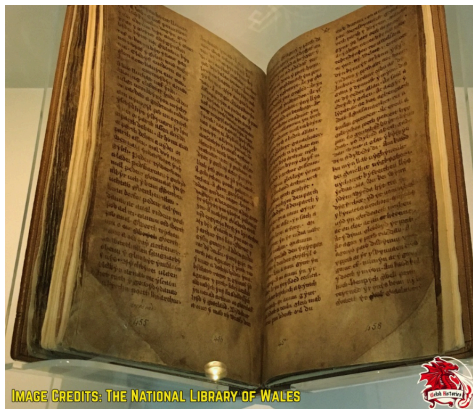
The White Book of Rhydderch

Einion’s wife Tangwystl was the daughter of Rhydderch ab Ievan Llwyd (1325–1400), a prominent literary patron in Ceredigion. Rhydderch was also an authority of native Cymric law and a



collector of manuscripts. In 1380, after years of collaboration with a local monastery, he was given the now-famous Llyfr Gwyn Rhydderch – the White Book of Rhydderch.⁶

The White Book of Rhydderch is one of the most notable and celebrated manuscripts in the National Library of Wales. It is the earliest compendium of Welsh prose texts, though it also contains some examples of early Welsh poetry.⁷ “After Rhydderch's death in 1400 the manuscript fell into the hands of his daughter, Tangwystyl and her husband Einion of Cors-y-Gedol. Here the manuscript was fortunate in that it moved north to Ardudwy and into the hands of a noble family who were also patrons of the arts.”⁷ This book may be seen today in the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth.



The White Book of Rhydderch

End of Life

Einion ap Griffith was living at Michaelmas (29 September) in 20 Richard II (1396/1397), so he died sometime after 1397, probably in Cors-y-Gedol, Merionethshire.¹⁰ Furthermore, the family tradition regarding his inheritance of the White Book⁷ suggests he lived at least until 1400.

Research Notes

Online Genealogy References:

WikiTree ID: [Griffith-576](#)

FamilySearch ID: [G9H5-GQ4](#)

Further Reading:

- Yale, Max Brian. [Guide to the Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection](#). Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection. 2025
- Yale, Max Brian. [Yale Family Coat of Arms](#) - Origin and History. Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection, 2025
- Wikipedia: [Harlech Castle Defense](#)

References

1. Yale, Rodney Horace. *Yale Genealogy and History of Wales*. Beatrice, NE: Milburn & Scott, 1908. Ref no11 [p. 77](#)
2. Burke, Bernard. [A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain & Ireland for 1852](#), Vol. I. United Kingdom, Colburn and Company, 1852, p. [913](#).
3. Great Britain Public Records Office "[List of sheriffs for England and Wales](#), from the earliest times to A.D.1831", New York, NY: Klaus Reprint Corp., 1963
4. Wikipedia: [Sheriffs of Caernarvonshire](#)
5. Nicholas, Thomas. [Annals and Antiquities of the Counties and County Families of Wales](#), London, England: J and W Rider, 1872
6. Johnson, Ben, [Owain Glyndwr](#) History UK: History of Wales online. (no date)
7. National Library of Wales. [White Book of Rhydderch](#). (no date)
8. Sir William Llewelyn Davies. [Vaughans of Cors-y-Gedol](#) Dictionary of Welsh Biography online (no date)
9. Wikipedia: [Harlech Castle Defense](#)
10. Howard, Joseph Jackson. "Miscellanea Genealogica Et Heraldica and the British Archivist", [Volume 1](#). London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co., 1874
11. Archaeologia Cambrensis Journal [Vol IX](#), London England, 1863. p. 58

